

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Contact: Amy Rezzonico, Press Secretary (602) 542-5072

Thursday, June 24, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **ARIZONA STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES PLANS TO CROSS TRAIN 35 MONITORS TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC READINESS IN FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN**

(PHOENIX) -- Thursday, June 24, 2004 -- Arizona State Schools Chief Tom Horne today announced plans for the Department to cross train 35 monitors to support academic readiness in full day kindergarten programs.

Horne stated: "Full day kindergarten produces greater academic success for students when it includes developmentally appropriate standards based instruction. For example, the kindergarten academic standards include phonemic awareness, phonics, reading comprehension and vocabulary as well as social studies, math, science and the Arts."

Horne added: "We want to be sure to give all the help possible so that every state funded full day kindergarten will provide academic readiness."

The ADE will utilize the 35 monitors that already work with the Districts and Charters in the areas of: early childhood education, Title I, special education, English immersion and school effectiveness programs.

Horne concluded: "Our monitors will be trained to recognize best practices, and provide support and assistance so all students enrolled in full day kindergarten program benefit academically. Training will occur this August in preparation for the upcoming school year."

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